

May 27, 2003

SUBJECT: APPLY NEW MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY RATE (MER) TO MARCH 2003 CLAIM

Dear Administrative Match Coordinator:

All school districts and ESDs must apply the new MER to cost calculations starting with claims submitted for activities performed during March of 2003.

Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have performed the first (partial) data match to identify the MER or the percent of Medicaid children in each district. The new MER (to replace the district-wide free and reduced lunch rate) is currently identified and available for approximately two-thirds of the state's school districts. The MER results by school district will be published on the MAA website: <http://maa.dshs.wa.gov>. (Look to the left side of the page under "Administrative Match/Schools.")

Each participating school district must have its own MER. As school district enrollment information becomes available for the remaining one-third of the school districts, another OSPI-MAA data match will be performed. Thereafter, incorrect or incomplete data matches will be run as the data becomes available.

The MER for each Educational Service District (ESD) will be based on the data match for the school districts in their area. Again, **all school districts and ESDs must apply the new MER to cost calculations starting with claims submitted for activities performed during March of 2003.** If your district rate is not posted on the website, hold submission of claims (A-19 invoices) for March 2003 and beyond until the new MER is available.

If you have questions, contact Sharon Lehnert Reddick at (360) 725-1834, or e-mail reddisl@dshs.wa.gov. Thank you for your continued Medicaid administrative match activities on behalf of children.

Sincerely,

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MAA, Division of Business and Finance

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